



SANTA BARBARA TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

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To Bring Alive the History of Santa Barbara for Present and Future Generations

NEWS RELEASE

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PHOTOS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

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“CULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND SUMMER ADVENTURES” (CASA) SUMMER CAMP PROVIDES CHILDREN FROM THE SANTA BARBARA HOUSING AUTHORITY WITH A FUN AND EDUCATIONAL SUMMER CAMP EXPERIENCE

**Free summer day camp offers children a unique opportunity to learn about their
community and heritage**



(SANTA BARBARA, CA, JULY 13, 2007) – The Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation is pleased to present Cultural Activities & Summer Adventures (CASA), a free summer day camp for children from limited income families based at El Presidio de Santa Barbara State Historic Park. Now in its fifth year, the Trust offers this annual summer camp in partnership with the

Santa Barbara Housing Authority (SBHA). Each summer SBHA recruits approximately thirty children aged six to twelve to participate in two sessions of a two-week long day camp in the months of June and July. In a city filled with excellent, but expensive, day camps, the Trust is proud to continue to offer this camp at **no cost to qualified SBHA families.**

Each year the Trust works to secure grant funding to pay for the cost of the camp, including various museum admission fees, worksheets, snacks, and educational supplies. This year the **Trust received grants from the Williams-Corbett Foundation, the Towbes Foundation, and Citrix Online Community Connection Task Force.** The Trust's Education Department develops curriculum and manages the camp activities. **Karen Schultz Anderson, Director of Education at the Trust,** hopes that this camp will continue to **"broaden children's knowledge of local history, including natural history, Chumash history, and Early California history, in a way that is both fun and exciting."** Anderson added, **"What makes this camp so special are all the hands-on learning opportunities."** **"Whether they're making their own adobe bricks at El Presidio de Santa Barbara State Historic Park, using all of their senses as they walk through local botanic gardens, or ringing the bells at La Purisima State Historic Park, they're learning by doing."**

The SBHA is in charge of recruiting for the camp, children are selected from 492 public housing units throughout Santa Barbara, and providing transportation for the children each day. The purpose of the CASA camp is to share Santa Barbara's distinct heritage, including Chumash, Spanish, and Mexican cultural history, as well as the natural history of the local area with the young campers. Participants increase their knowledge of the rich cultural diversity of their city as they have fun exploring different state parks and museums throughout Santa Barbara County. **"The children are getting an experience that opens their eyes to new places and ideas"** noted Housing Authority Intern **Nicolas A. Aguilar.** **"From the moment we pick them up in the morning you can tell they are excited and eager to get started."**



Camp sessions include learning about: **El Presidio de Santa Barbara State Historic Park**, including its history as a Spanish fortress, adobe brick making, food preparation techniques from over 200 hundred years ago, ceramics, and archaeology done on site, visits to **La Purísima Mission State Historic Park** and the **Santa Barbara Botanic Garden**, a sample of

California's Mexican period at the **Casa de la Guerra Museum**, Chumash culture as seen at the **Chumash Interpretive Center and Museum** in Oakbrook Regional Park and the **Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History**, nautical history at the **Santa Barbara Maritime Museum**, and marine life at **UCSB's Marine Science Institute** and **Refugio State Beach**. Through these various activities the Trust hopes that this experience will help participating children become more caring and thoughtful adults, interested in their community and proud of their heritage. **The second and final camp session for Summer 2007 is scheduled to start Monday, July 16.**

ABOUT the Santa Barbara Housing Authority – The Housing Authority of the City of Santa Barbara is a local public agency that provides safe, decent, and quality affordable housing and supportive services to eligible persons with limited incomes, through a variety of federal, state, local and private resources. Since 1969, the Housing Authority has developed and/or secured over 3,000 units of affordable rental housing for Santa Barbara.

ABOUT the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation – Founded in 1963 by Dr. Pearl Chase and other concerned community leaders, the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation is a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization working to protect, preserve, restore, reconstruct, and interpret historic sites within Santa Barbara County. The Trust is the primary force in the reconstruction and preservation of El Presidio de Santa Barbara State Historic Park and the restoration of Casa de la Guerra in downtown Santa Barbara. The Trust is also preserving and restoring the Santa Inés Mission Mills—the site of a future California State Park and recently purchased the building that housed Jimmy's Oriental Gardens, providing an opportunity to interpret the history of Santa Barbara's Asian community in the Presidio neighborhood. The Trust is currently

reconstructing the Northwest Corner of El Presidio de Santa Barbara, the eighteenth-century Spanish colonial fort that is Santa Barbara's birthplace. Using over 50,000 adobe bricks made on site, these additions will eventually house the new Presidio visitors' center, and with the help of the new Presidio Research Center, serve to interpret the city's Hispanic heritage, and the larger multi-cultural heritage of the surrounding Presidio neighborhood from the eighteenth century to the present. The new Santa Barbara Presidio Research Center will be unveiled to the public at the Trust's annual "Tapas, Vino y Arte" celebration on Saturday, September 29, 2007. **For more information visit www.sbthp.org**

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